Direct-To-Home Transmission through Satellite

45. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow satellite network to begin Direct-To-Home (DTH) transmission; and

(b) how do Government propose to regulate such transmission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Programmes from AIR, Bhuj

46. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Kutch District, especially in Bhuj area, people prefer to listen to radio stations across the Border;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to introduce catchy folk programmes on AIR, Bhuj to counter propaganda from across the Border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Audience Research Unit of All India Radio has not conducted any survey in Bhuj area to assess Radio listening. However, the folk music programme and rural programmes broadcast by All India Radio, Bhuj are popular among the listeners which is confirmed from the feed-back received by the station from listeners.

(c) All India Radio, Bhuj broadcasts programmes in Gujarati, Kachchhi, Sindhi, Hindi and English. More than half of the programmes are devoted to programmes on music/folk/feature for rural masses including programmes recorded in the far flung areas of service zone of the station, with a view to get optimum involvement of local/rural and folk masses. Gaam Jo Chora, Jay Bharti, Rang katori (folk/devotional music), Bahaar and Anke Mili Khusi Thai are some of the popular programmes broadcasting by the station.